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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/643,232	08/18/2003	Jens Garner	442-194	3305

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EXAMINER	
RUTLAND WALLIS, MICHAEL	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2836	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/11/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/643,232	GARNER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Michael Rutland-Wallis	2836	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *11/27/2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-12* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☐ Claim(s) *1-12* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *21 February 2006* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/27/2006 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments and amendments, filed 11/27/2006, with respect to the rejections of claims 1-12 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground of rejection is made below.

Abstract

The abstract is objected to because of the following informalities: lines 3 and 6 of the abstract "or/or" is recited, this is understood as a typographical error and should be corrected to "and/or" or "or".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1-7 and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stoll (U.S. Pat. No. 6,169,338) in view of Koshinaka et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,711,507)

With respect to claims 1 and 12 Stoll teaches a pneumatic arrangement comprising a plurality of servicing modules (items 10 11 and 13) for the preparation of compressed air, which are arranged on a common bus system (item 42 bus line), and a control module (item 10 monitoring module controls and monitors) connected with the bus system for monitoring functions and for the servicing modules, wherein a valve arrangement (item 20 and 51 for example valves associated with each module to perform their respective function) is also connected with such common bus system, the control module (Stoll teaches the monitoring unit monitors the valves of the switching and may also be used in control or regulation) being also designed for the

implementation of monitoring functions for the valves of the valve arrangement together with the servicing modules and the valve arrangement constitutes a subassembly. Stoll teaches the increased modularity and subassemblies of the system in figure 1 reduce costs and repair time (module 11 switching valve module is a separate module and assembly). Stoll does not teach the implementation of a plurality of valves of a valve arrangement wherein the plurality of valves are not positioned within, and do not form part of, the plurality of servicing modules. Koshinaka teaches a pneumatic arrangement and a plurality of valves (Fig. 1, items 250-253) arranged between servicing modules (meters and shutoff valves) and actuators or devices (items 31-33), which are not formed within, or part of the air driven actuators or devices (items 31-33). Koshinaka further teaches a control and monitoring connections (item 5 and 6) to detect the operating states and leak detection of the modules, valves and associated connections (col. 2 lines 4-45). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Stoll to include the a valve arrangement such as the type seen in Koshinaka in order to monitor and control the operating states of the servicing modules and/or to determine leakage of compressed air in the system.

With respect to claim 2 Stoll teaches the valves and the servicing modules are arranged in a row on the common bus system (Fig. 3 or 4).

With respect to claim 3 Stoll teaches the bus system is designed in the form of a bus conductor bar (item 42 bus line bar), which preferably comprises individual bar elements able to be plugged or attached together, the modules and the valve arrangement being able to be arranged in a row (see fig. 1) with the bus conductor bar.

With respect to claim 4 Stoll teaches wherein the control module is integrated in one of the servicing modules or is arranged as a separate module on the bus system or on the valve arrangement (see arrangement Fig. 2).

With respect to claim 5 Stoll teaches the control module is arranged between the valve arrangement and the servicing modules (see arrangement Fig. 2).

With respect to claim 6 Stoll teaches an electrical and/or pneumatic adapter module is arranged between the valve arrangement and the servicing modules on the bus system.

With respect to claim 7 Stoll teaches the control module possesses a field bus interface for an external bus system (column 5 Stoll teaches the addition of other modules to the bus).

With respect to claim 9 Stoll teaches the servicing modules are partly provided with sensors (the control module may control and monitor the pressure column 5 lines 5-13), more particularly with pressure sensors, whose output signals can be transmitted by way of the bus system to the control module.

With respect to claim 10 Stoll teaches the control module is provided with a monitoring means for the valve arrangement and the servicing modules, such means being more especially adapted to be effective for more than one system.

With respect to claim 11 Stoll teaches comprising optical indicating means (display), such means serving more especially for diagnostic messages.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stoll (U.S. Pat. No. 6,169,338) in view of Koshinaka et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,711,507) as applied to

claim 1 above, and further in view of Nagai et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,884,664) Stoll teaches a display (item 24) is integrated in the control module or as a separate component. Stoll does not teach the use of wireless communication system. Nagai teaches pneumatic control system where an interface system between a control and an outside apparatus is done through wireless communication. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the ad at the time of the invention to modify Stoll to use wireless transmission as a means to interface outside control module in order to have a remote control terminal.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kambli et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 7,031,850) teaches a similar system and arrangement as that disclosed in Koshinaka.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Rutland-Wallis whose telephone number is 571-272-5921. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30AM-6:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on 571-272-2058. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MRW

Stephen W Jackson
1-5-07

STEPHEN W. JACKSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER